



In Reply To:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Salem District Office
1717 Fabry Road S.E.
Salem, Oregon 97306
<http://www.or.blm.gov/salem/>



1790 (084)
Little Sandy River LWD Placement

May 4, 2007

Dear Interested Public:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Cascades Resource Area would like your comments on a proposed project to place large woody debris (LWD) in the Little Sandy River. LWD placement would take place in the lower three miles of the river, 1.75 miles downstream of the Little Sandy Diversion Dam and 1.25 miles upstream of the dam. The dam is scheduled for removal in the summer of 2008 by Portland General Electric (PGE). The objective of wood placement downstream of the dam is to ensure that there is adequate instream structure to retain as much as possible of the riverbed sediments that are currently stored behind the dam, primarily for spawning habitat.

Upstream of the dam the objective of LWD placement is to increase habitat complexity for fish species that are expected to recolonize the Little Sandy River after the dam is removed. Anadromous fish (steelhead, coho and chinook) will have access to habitat that has been blocked for nearly 100 years. LWD in rivers is known to increase habitat complexity, aid in pool formation and the retention of bedload and nutrients, reduce the velocity of high flows and provide a substrate for aquatic insects. Habitat survey results show that LWD and gravel are scarce in the Little Sandy River from the mouth to at least 3 miles upstream.

The project is a partnership involving Salem District BLM, the Mt. Hood National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. It would involve placement of approximately 25 LWD pieces per mile with a heavy lift helicopter on Forest Service, Portland General Electric and BLM lands. As many as possible of the LWD pieces would have the rootwads intact. Trees used in the project would be obtained from BLM and US Forest Service lands. LWD placement sites would incorporate existing features deemed most likely to retain the wood.

An Environmental Assessment is being prepared for the proposed project, which would be implemented between October 2007 and March 2008, depending on the timing of material availability. We would appreciate your questions, comments, or concerns about the proposed action. Please send written comments to Cindy Enstrom, Field Manager Cascades Resource Area, at the address listed above, by **May 27, 2007**. If you would prefer to e-mail your comments, please send them to salem_mail@blm.gov, Attn: Cindy Enstrom.

Thank you for your interest and participation. If you would like more information, please contact Dave Roberts at 503-375-5672. Alternatively, you may send an e-mail to salem_mail@blm.gov, Attn: Dave Roberts.

Sincerely,

Cindy Enstrom

Cindy Enstrom
Field Manager, Cascades Resource Area

Enclosures (1): Map

Little Sandy River LWD Project

